THE

Petitioning-COMET:

Or, a Brief

CHRONOLOGY

Of all the Famous

COMETS,

And their EVENTS,

That have happen'd from the Birth of CHRIST, to this very day.

Together with a Modest Enquiry into this present COMET.

Cum Deus puniturus est Gentem vel Urbem, prodigiis id prius solet significare. Herodot. lib. 6.

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A LETTER out of the Country,

FROM THE

AUTHOR to the PRINTER.

SIR,

SInce my laſt receſs from *London*, I have wholly devoted my ſelf to Contemplation; which is as natural to a Country life, as Flattery to the Court, Debauchery to the Town, Cozening to the City, and Fawning to the Clergy. Now of this Contemplation I have ſpent ſome part in the Evenings, about obſerving the Motion and Progreſs of this ſo-much-talkt-of COMET, and in this enclоſed have ſent you the Reſult of my Thoughts concerning it, together with a Meteorological Compendium of all the moſt remarkable BLAZING-STARS, that have been at any time conſpicuous from the Nativity of Chriſt, to this very day: as alſo the Events and Misfortunes both to Kings and Kingdoms, that have attended each of thoſe Meteors. This preſent Comet (it's true) is of a menacing Aſpect, but if the *New Parliament* (for whoſe Convention ſo many good men pray) continue long to ſit, I fear not but the STAR will loſe its virulence and malignancy, or at leaſt its portent be averted from this our Nation; which being the humble requeſt to God of all good men, makes me thus entitle it, *A Petitioning-Comet*. Now as for you, *my old Friend*, I muſt confeſs the late Noiſe abroad of your being a *Papiſt*, or at leaſt *Popiſhly affected*, made me at firſt heſitate whether I might with ſafety entruſt any more Papers with you, or proceed in our old Acquaintance as formerly; but when upon mature deliberation I recollected all your former Letters and Diſcourſes, as well as examined what ſeveral eminent Pieces againſt *Popery* you have publiſh'd, even ſuch as would be a damning Sin in the very *Pope* himſelf to diſpenſe with, after this I ſoon ſatisfy'd my Reaſon with the abſurdity of the Report; and from that time, examined every one of your Adverſaries *Intelligences*, with as great expectation to find that the Emperor of *Turky* was turn'd a *Chriſtian*, and the *Pop* a *Proteſtant*.

As

force and vertue of the Sun, into the higheſt Region of the Air, is there inflamed, partly by the Element of Fire on which it bordereth, and partly by the motion of the Heavens which hurleth it about; ſo as there is the ſame matter of an Earthquake, Wind, Lightning, and a Comet: if it be impriſon'd in the bowels of the Earth, it cauſeth an *Earthquake*; if it aſcend to the middle Region of the Air, and from thence repell'd, it produceth *Wind*; if it enters that Region, and be there environed with a thick Cloud, it ſends forth *Lightning*; but if it paſſes that Region, it then becomes a *Comet*, or ſome other fiery Meteor, in caſe the matter be not ſufficiently capable thereof.

Now of theſe *Ignita mixta*, ſome continue a longer, and ſome a ſhorter time; ſeven days is the leaſt, but ſome have been viſible ſix months together; all which happeneth according to the ſcarcity or plenty of the matter whereof it conſiſteth. In a Comet there are two things remarkable; the *colour*, and the *faſhion*.

As for their *colours*, they are uſually but of three ſorts: 1. If the matter be thin, then the colour is white: 2. If reaſonably thick, then the colour is ruddy, reſembling Fire: and 3. If very thick, then their colour is like the burning of Brimſtone, or of a blue appearance. Yet nevertheleſs they are not always ſo exactly of theſe three colours, without any different tincture, but as near them as the diſpoſing of their matter will admit; ſo that inſtead of white, we ſometimes have them of a yellowiſh colour; and inſtead of a blue, of a watchet or greeniſh colour, and the like.

In the next place, as for their *ſhapes* or *forms*, (if we ſtand upon a curious examination of them) they may be manifold, however *Ariſtotle* reſolves them into two, all their other ſhapes being dependant on theſe two: For firſt, either they ſeem round, with Beams about them, which cometh to paſs when the Matter is thin on the edges, and thick every where elſe; or ſecondly, they ſeem as it were with a Beard or Tail, which happeneth when it is but meanly thick towards ſome one ſide or other, and rather long than round. But ſome would have theſe two faſhions, to be three, becauſe the Tail hangs downward ſometimes, as well as ſide-long; and ſo there is by this means *Stella crinita*, *Stella caudata*, and *Stella barbata*: concerning which, I am not ſolicitous.

Now concerning the Prognoſtications of ſuch Meteors, many and various are the opinions of all Meteorologiſts; whether Comets or Blazing-Stars be generally of ſuch terrible effects, as elder times have conceiv'd them, is (ſaith Dr. *Brown*) very uncertain: for ſince it is found that many from whence theſe predictions are drawn, have been above the Moon, why may they not be qualified from their Poſitions and Aſpects which they hold with Stars of favourable natures? or why, ſince they may be conceived to ariſe from the *Effluviums* of other Stars, may they not retain the benignity of their Originals? or ſince the natures of the fixed Stars are Aſtrologically differenced by the Planets, and are eſteem'd Martial or Jovial, according to the colour, whereby they anſwer theſe Planets; why although the red Comets do carry the portenſions of *Mars*, ſhould not the brightly white be of the influence of *Jupiter* or *Venus*, anſwerably unto *Cor Scorpii* and *Arcturus*, is not abſurd to doubt. Therefore ſome are of opinion, that this ſuperſtitious dread of Comets may poſſi-

Browns Vulg Err. l. 6. c 14.

bly

bly proceed from ſome terrour ſtruck into mens thoughts by reaſon of their rare and unexpected appearance, rather than from any certain ground of knowledge of the reaſon of the thing it ſelf; as if all but the hiſtory of them, were only uncertain conjectures. For (ſay they) although it may be true, that after ſuch Comets have appear'd, ſtrange things have happen'd, yet is there no more connexion of cauſality between the Comet, and the deaths of Great men, or Alterations of Government and Religion, than (as the ingenious Sir *Thomas More* inſtances) that the building of *Tenterden* Steeple was (as the old Sage would have it) the cauſe of *Goodwin Sands*; becauſe the one appear'd preſently upon the building of the other. And that the Almighty (they ſay) hath given theſe Signs in the Celeſtial or Aerial Regions, not only to affrighten ſuch mortals as pretend not but to be ignorant what they are; nor only to exerciſe the curioſity of others, who affect an enquiry into ſuch things; but alſo to puzzle (it may be) and diſcover the vanity of thoſe, who would be thought ignorant of nothing, be it never ſo much above them; and who chooſe rather to adventure the after-cenſure of Folly, then quit the Ambition and vain-glory of being thought Prophets, if the event chance to anſwer their prediction, by interpreting the portent of thoſe things which fore-ſignifie (it may be) nothing, or at beſt they know not what: For (ſay they) no certain knowledge, or ſcarce a ſatisfactory probability, appearing of *what a thing is*, who ſhall pretend to know *what it ſignifies*; when no one would think, but *that* ſhould (in reaſon) be known *before*, if not more *eaſily* than *this*.

Accordingly (ſaith Dr. *Hakewell*) the late Lord Privy-Seal, and Earl of *Northampton*, in his *Defenſative againſt the poiſon of ſuppoſed Prophecies*, ſheweth: that as Comets do not always fore-run ſuch Events, ſo neither do ſuch Events always follow upon the appearing of Comets: ſome inſtances he produceth of Comets, which brought with them ſuch abundance of all things, as ſtories have recorded it for Monuments and Miracles to poſterity: And the like, ſaith he, could I ſay of others, *An. Dom.* 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558. after all which years nothing happen'd that ſhould drive a man to ſeek out any cauſe above the common reach: and therefore I allow the diligence of *Gemma Friſius*, taking notice of as many good, as bad effects, which have ſucceeded after Comets. Moreover he tells us, that *Pecuer* a great Mathematician of *Germany*, prognoſticated upon the laſt Comet before the writing of his Defenſative, that mens Bodies ſhould be burnt up with heat; But how fell it out? we had not (ſaith he) a more unkind Summer for many years, in reſpect of extraordinary Cold; nor was there any inclination to War, or any Prince deceas'd at that time; but on the contrary, the Plague which had raged before in *Lombardy*, as God would have it, ceaſed at the riſing of that Comet. Queen *Elizabeth* (1558.) being then at *Richmond*, and being diſſwaded from looking on a Comet which did then appear, made anſwer, *Facta eſt alea*, the Dice are thrown; thereby intimating, that the preorder'd providence of God, was above the influence of any Star or Comet. Neither (ſaith he) do I remember that any Comet appear'd before her death, as at her entrance there did; nor before the deceaſe of Prince *Henry*, nor of *Henry* the Great of *France*, all three famous Princes. *Charle-*

Apolog. l. 2. ſect. 6.

Charlemagne profeſs'd, that he fear'd not the ſign of a Blazing-Star, but the great and potent Creator thereof; and ſo much fear conſiſts both with Chriſtianity, and prudence:

Οὐδεὶς κομήτης, ὅστις ἐ κακὸν φέρει.

Alſo *Manilius*:

Nunquam futilibus excanduit ignibus æther.

That Comets of themſelves are miſchievous, I diſown; yet how knows any man but that they may be ſet there as menaces of the Almighty's Anger? The common opinion hath been, that New Stars, Comets, and the like, either as ſigns or cauſes, or both, have always prognoſticated ſome dreadful misfortune to the World, as outragious Winds, extraordinary Drought, Dearth, Peſtilence, Wars, death of Princes, *&c.* Accordingly we find the wiſe men of the Eaſt prophecying, that our Saviour (*at whoſe Birth a new Star appear'd*) ſhould bring deſtruction upon the Kingdom of the *Jews*, his Native Country. But that which above all others does moſt influence me, is the experience of former Ages, wherein 'twas rarely obſerv'd that any terrible Comet appear'd, without an effect altogether as terrible. There is no general Rule without an Exception; and as we muſt not define Luxury to be a Vertue in a Prince, becauſe ſome few extravagant Princes have lived and died happily beyond expectation; ſo neither muſt we eſteem a Comet the leſs ominous, becauſe one in a hundred has proved a Bleſſing to the people, although fatal to *Nero*.

There are many Authors who have wrote concerning Comets, ſome in particular Treatiſes upon that ſubject, and ſome only by the by: as *Joſephus*, *Manilius*, *Xiphiline*, *Pliny*, *Seneca*, *Suetonius*, *Euſebius*, *Nicephorus*, *Pontanus*, *Amerbachius*, *Niphus*, *Apiarius*, *Funccius*, *Mylichius*, *Carion*, *Cuſrinianus*, *Sueſſanus*, *Peucerus*, *Camerarius*, *Aretius*, *Garcæus*, *Griminæus*, *Prætorius*, *Daſypodius*, *Latomus*, *Celichius*, *Irenæus*, *Zeiſius*, *Nagelius*, *Keckermannus*, *Puteanus*, *Lycoſthenes*, *de prodigiis ab orbe condito*, and others; out of whom, but more eſpecially out of *Alſtedius* his Chronology, I have perfected this following Breviary of all the Comets that have occurr'd from *Chriſt*'s time, to this very day. As for thoſe that happen'd before *Chriſt*, Hiſtory mentions not above ten or eleven, and therein they vary: however the moſt eminent of them were that which happen'd *A. M.* 3519. before the *Peloponneſian* War; and thoſe which preceded *Julius Cæſar*'s death, whereof *Virgil* ſpeaks:

Non alias cælo ceciderunt plura ſereno
Fulgura, nec diri toties arſere Cometæ.

An. Ch.

13. A Comet was ſeen, at which time *Quintilius Varus* was ſlain by the *Germans*, under the conduct of *Arminius*.

16. The death of *Auguſtus Cæſar* was foretold by ſeveral bloudy Comets.

56. Being the year that *Claudius* died, not only a Comet was ſeen, but alſo it rained Bloud: as if one had portended the death of *Claudius*, and the other the Reign of his wicked ſucceſſor *Nero*; who murder'd his Wife, his Mother, and his Schoolmaſter *Seneca*, beſides the many other robberies and exorbitances he committed.

57. Was ſeen a Comet and 3 Suns, to uſher in the bloudy Reign of *Nero*.

Appear'd

62. Appear'd another Comet that laſted 6 months, which predicted the tragical end of *Nero*, and ſo proved fatal to the Prince, although favourable to the people.

66. A Comet alſo raged for 6 months together, which was ſucceeded by a terrible Earthquake, wherewith *Laodicea*, *Hierapolis*, and the Inhabitants of *Coloſſis* in *Natolia* ſuffer'd much.

68. A Comet like a flaming Sword was ſeen hanging over the City of *Je-*
69. *ruſalem*, in *Judea*, and elſewhere, which portended the deſtruction of that holy City.

73. Appear'd a Comet, which is call'd *Acontia*, from the reſemblance it hath of a Dart.

77. Was ſeen that Comet, which *Titus* the Emperor deſcrib'd in Verſe.

78. A Comet was beheld about *Cyprus* and other places, where ſoon after many Cities were ſhaken with a dreadful Earthquake.

79. Terrible Winds, Earthquakes, and Plague, raging at *Rome*, ſucceeded a Comet; which Comet being ſhew'd to *Veſpaſian*, he jeſtingly ſaid, *This bushy Star belongs not to me, but the* Parthian *King, Ipſe enim comatus eſt, ego vero calvus ſum*: however *Veſpaſian* ſoon after died, notwithſtanding his Quibble.

181. Was ſeen a Comet, which reſembling a Beard, was call'd *Pogonias*. At this time the Temple of Peace being burnt, many Wars and Troubles followed at *Rome*, which was imputed to the wicked Life of *Commodus*.

190. A Comet boded the burning of the Capitol, as alſo War and Peſtilence.

195. In the time of *Severus* a Comet was ſeen, of which, it was the opinion at *Rome*, that it portended ſome great Evil.

323. Divers Comets preceeded the peſtilent Hereſie of *Arius*.

377. A Comet foreran that almoſt univerſal Earthquake, when the Sea, tranſgreſſing its bounds, devoured many Cities and people.

383. Appear'd a Comet like *Lucifer*, which from its reſemblance of a Sword was named *Xiphias*, and beſides many other Miſchiefs, portended the Invaſion of *Eugenius*.

389. The ſame *Luciferan* Comet was likewiſe ſeen.

405. Under *Arcadius* a Comet was ſeen, which ſignified his death.

410. A Comet appear'd like a Sword, which portended many Evils. About this time *Rome* was beſieg'd by *Alaricus* King of the *Goths*; beſides ſundry calamities that happen'd as well in the Eaſt as Weſt; for then was there ſo great a ſlaughter of men, that no Age can parallel from the beginning of the World: All *Europe* ſuffer'd, together with great part of *Aſia* and *Africa*; War, Famine, Drought, and Peſtilence infeſted the whole Univerſe: there was alſo at this time ſo great an Eclipſe of the Sun, that the Stars appear'd at Noon-day.

418. Under *Honorius* another Comet appear'd, which was ſucceeded by an Inſurrection throughout all *Spain* and *Italy*.

443. A Comet was ſeen, and Bloud flowed at *Tholouſe*.

448. A Comet ſhining for many days together, there happen'd a terrible Earthquake; alſo *Attyla*, having after a long Siege taken *Aquileia*, gave terrour to *Vincentia*, *Verona*, *Millane*, *Pavia*, *Baſil*, *Argentina*, *Vormatia*, *Cologne*, and other Cities upon the *Rhine*, till at length he was overthrown in a great Battel in the Campaign Fields.

459. A Comet and other Prodigies happen'd, after which a Plague deſtroy'd many.

519. A bearded Comet appear'd, which portended an Earthquake, wherein many Cities and Men periſh'd.

533. Another Comet blazed under *Juſtinian*, which was ſucceeded not only by an Earthquake that laſted for ten days, but alſo by a Sedition at *Conſtantinople*, and Plague at *Antioch*, and other places.

550. A Comet appear'd in the form of a Lance, ſoon after which *Rome* was taken by *Totila*, and *Franconia* and *Turingia* waſted by the *Huns*.

589. A Comet gave warning of the overthrow of the *Perſians* by *Mauritius*.

594. A dreadful Comet appear'd, which was attended with many Evils: as for inſtance, Drought, ſcarcity of Corn, the *Lombards* War in *Italy*, and vaſt ſwarms of Locuſts all thereabouts.

602. A moſt prodigious Comet was ſeen, beſides many other ſtrange things, which were the forerunners of the Emperor *Mauritius* his ſlaughter, the future Idolatry of *Mahomet*, and Tyranny of the Biſhop of *Rome*, when *Boniface* the III. (notwithſtanding the Patriarch of *Conſtantinople*) commanded of *Phocas*, that the Church of *Rome* ſhould be call'd and eſteem'd the Head of all other Churches.

620. A Comet appear'd; at which time *Cojroes* King of *Perſia* ſackt *Jeruſalem*, and in the year 622. *Mahomed* began. There were likewiſe ſeen ſeveral other Prodigies, as well as horrid Noiſes heard of Thundring, *&c.*

633. A Comet was ſeen in ſhape of a Spear; about which time the *Saracens* rendred themſelves Maſters of *Damaſcus*, *Jeruſalem*, and all *Syria*.

674. Another great Comet foreran Drought, Peſtilence, and Famine.

675. A Comet laſted for 3 whole months, when ſoon after the *Saracens* vio-
676. lently infeſted the *Roman* Empire, coming with a great Navy into *Sicily*. *Bellarmine* in his Chronology places this Comet in the year 678. and further adds, that it did not rain one drop in the 3 following years.

684. A Comet foretold the following Plague, Thunders, Famine, and Inundations.

729. Two Comets were ſeen; and in the ſame year many parts of the World were infected with a Plague, eſpecially *Conſtantinople*, wherein 300000 men loſt their Lives; and ſoon after *Luitprandus* King of the *Lombards* beſieges *Rome*; alſo the *Saracens* ſayling out of *Africa* into *Spain*, poſſeſt themſelves of part of that Province.

745. A Comet appear'd in *Syria*, and many ſickly Diſtempers followed.

761. Two Comets were ſeen, the one in the Eaſt, the other in the Weſt, after which the *Turks* invaded *Armenia*.

763. Another Comet was ſucceeded firſt by a great Cold, and afterwards by a Blaſt; alſo the *Turks* increaſe in power.

814. Before the death of *Charles* the Great appear'd a moſt remarkable and dreadful Comet, whereat the Emperor being ſtruck with terror, (fearing leſt it threatned either the loſs of his Kingdom or of his Life) conſulted with *Eginardus* the Philoſopher about it; who being unwilling to increaſe the Emperor's Melancholy, referr'd him to that comfortable place in the Prophet, *A ſignis Cæli nolite timere*. Whereupon the good Emperor replied, *We ought not to fear any thing but that God who is the Creator both of Men and Stars; nevertheleſs are we bound to praiſe his Clemency, who,*

when

when we offend, admoniſhes us by ſuch Signs. Others attribute this paſſage to *Ludovicus* the I. the Son of *Charles* the Great.

818 Was a Comet ſeen; as alſo another in the year 830. about which time, ſome of the Heads of the Clergy, in malice to the Emperor *Ludovicus*, for his reproving their inſolent behaviour, excited his own Sons to conſpire againſt him, to take their Father and impriſon him.

840 Three Comets appear'd before the Diſſention and War between *Ludo-*
841 *vicus Pius* his Sons, that aroſe about the diviſion of the Kingdom. Then
842 it was alſo that the *Saracens* march'd out of *Africk* into *Italy*, and ſackt *Rome*, in their return from whence they were drowned.

868 A Comet preceeded a terrible Earthquake.

876 A Comet was ſucceeded by a dreadful Plague and Famine.

882 A Comet was ſeen before the burning of *Triers*.

900 A Comet lighted the Emperor *Arnolphus* to his Grave. Soon after which, the *Huns* and *Saracens* made their Incurſion into *Italy*.

905 A Comet appear'd before the *Hungarians* entred and laid waſte *Germany*. Alſo about the ſame time, *Berengarius*, Emperor of *Italy*, deprived *Ludovicus* King of *Lombardy* of his Sight.

906 Another Comet, after which followed a prodigious quantity of Hail.

912 More Comets portended the *Hungarians* Invaſion of *Italy*, as alſo the great Inundation of Waters, which happen'd chiefly in *Saxony*; both which things happen'd ſoon after.

942 Comets predicted the enſuing War, Famine, and Mortality of all kinds of living Creatures.

945 In *Italy* a Comet of a wonderful bigneſs was ſeen, which was attended with Plague, Famine, and extraordinary Floods of Water.

964 A Comet and other prodigies were ſeen, portending that Famine which ſoon after followed.

984 Was a Comet that preſaged a Famine, Peſtilence, and Earthquake.

1000 Comets and other wonderful things appear'd, before *Otho* the III. ſubdued the growing Greatneſs of the *Patricii*, and ſubſtituted ſeven Electors in their ſtead.

1006 A Comet and other things ſupernatural, portended that great Plague and Famine, which raged ſo violently in *England* for 3 years together, that the living were hardly ſufficient to bury the dead, many Towns being thereby exhauſted of Man, Woman, and Child.

1017 A Comet gave warning of the enſuing War and Plague in *Polonia*.

1031 A Comet preadvertiſed of a Plague, Famine, and great Inundations of Water.

1038 A Comet gave light to the Sedition in *Italy*.

1043 The War in *Hungary* ſucceeded a Comet.

1058 The death of the King of *Poland*, and Famine in the ſame Countrey, were preſignifi'd by a Comet.

1066 For a conſiderable ſpace together Comets were viſible all the World over; at which time *William* the *Norman* firſt attack'd this Kingdom, which afterwards he conquer'd. Alſo in this ſame year, Pope *Gregory* the VII. or *Hildebrand*, excommunicated *Henry* the IV. and ſubſtituted *Rodolphus* in his place.

1067 A Comet foreboded a great Drought, Peſtilence, and Famine.

Another

1068 Another fiery Comet appear'd, with reference to the Evils mention'd in the two former years.

1071 Another 4*th*. Comet was seen, and all relating to the Evils before-recited, but more especially to various Seditions which about this time occurr'd: As the trampling on the Emperor's Majesty by Pope *Hildebrand*, which he had continued to do from the year 1060. till this present time 1071. The Rebellion of the *Saxons*: *Cæsar* made a Petitioner to the *Pope*: *Rodolphus* elected in opposition to *Henry*, but afterwards slain: And last of all, the insolent *Pope* himself reduced to great Extremities by *Henry* the IV.

1095 In every one of these years a several Comet was seen; and about this
1096 time it was, that *Conradus* and *Henry* the V. confederated together against
1097 his Father *Henry* the IV. Then followed the Holy War, which proved
1099 very fatal to all Christendom. Histories likewise tells us of many other
1101 Calamities that happen'd at that time; as Famine, and almost an universal
1106 Plague throughout the World; as likewise that unhappy War which the
1109 *Pope* waged in *Germany*, wherein arming the *Saxons* against *Henry* the V.
1110 in five several Battels much bloud was spilt, and many gallant Princes
1112 lost their Lives: nor would his Holiness be pacifi'd, until the Emperor aboliſh'd the Edict of his Grandfather *Henry* the III. wherein it was establiſh'd, that no one should be acknowledg'd for *Pope*, until the Emperor had first ratified his Election.

1132 A Comet appear'd, and soon after the *Swedes* and the *Danes* revolted from the Emperor *Lotharius*, by whom they were afterwards reduced.

1145 Another Comet was seen, and then a War broke out between the *Saxons*, *Vandals*, and *Polanders*; also the Nobles in *Hassia* rebell'd.

1211 There appear'd a very great Comet, and in the year following the *Tartars* breaking into *Poland* and *Silesia*, kill'd a great number of men, and cut off one Ear from every man they slew, thereby to keep an account how many were slain.

1223 A Comet blazed in *France*, at which time the Pope being at variance with the Emperor *Frederick* II. the faction of the *Gibellines* took part with the Emperor, and the faction of the *Guelphs* with the Pope.

1240 A Comet arose, and in the year following the *Tartars* with a vast Army made an incursion into *Poland*, where destroying all things with Fire and Sword, they afterwards passing through *Moravia* into *Hungary*, made havock there for three years. At this time also there happen'd in *Burgundy* a most terrible Earthquake, which removed two Mountains, and overwhelmed divers men.

1254 A Comet was the forerunner of dreadful High winds.

1264 There appear'd a Comet with a vast long Tail, and presently after King *Charles* with an Army out of *France*, began his Expedition against *Sicily*, where having overcome their King *Manfredus*, he took possession of the Kingdom of *Naples*. Two years after this, the *Saracens* marched into *Spain*, where they won and lost several great Battels, with much slaughter on either side. In *Hetruria* also great Tumults arose; and in the third year after the appearing of the Comet, *Banducar* King of the *Babylonians* and *Assyrians*, with a great Army invaded *Armenia*, reduced *Antioch*, and gave a great discomfiture to the Christians.

In

1298 In each of these years Comets appear'd, which amongst other miseries
1300 foretold the afflictions which the Christians should receive from the *Otto-*
1301 *man* Family, which began from *Osman* or *Ottoman*, in the year of Christ
1304 1297. as also a Pestilence which had almost infected the whole World, in
1305 the year 1305.

1312 Was seen a Comet, and so also in the other four succeeding years. Now
1313 it was that *Henry Lutzelburgius* was poison'd by a Monk: likewise a Con-
1314 tention or Civil War did at this time arise about choosing Emperour,
1315 which produced great Troubles in *Germany* for the space of eight years;
as also the greatest Pestilence amongst both Men and Cattel that ever was
known, together with scarcity of Corn.

1337 Two Comets were then to be seen: soon after began the contention
between *Ludovicus Bavarus*, and Pope *Clement* the 6th. The Locusts also
were then very pernicious.

1340 Appear'd a Comet in the Heavens, which was fulfilled by a Victory that
the *English* obtained over the *French*, of whom ten thousand were slain
There was at the same time a Plague raging in *Florence*, which destroy'd
fifteen thousand.

1347 There was another Comet, and soon after a general Pestilence: and so
in the years 1351. and 1353. in both which years there appear'd Comets
with the like success.

1363 *John Wickliff's* Reformation was introduced by a Comet.

1375 Two Comets portended the private discontents of the Princes of *France*,
1380 as well as *Bertholdus* the *German* Monk his invention of Guns in the
year 1380.

1382 A new Comet was seen, which no sooner disappear'd, but a cruel
Plague began.

1390 Another Comet was visible, and attended with unheard-of and incura-
ble diseases.

1394 A Comet appear'd, which the Astrologers call *Vera*, a Dart, and esteem
the worst of all others: it denoted the *Italian* Treachery, who then began
to shake off the yoke of the *German* Empire.

1400 In every one of these years several Comet appear'd, and many gr[eat]
1401 misfortunes ensued them: divers new diseases, Rivers dried up, and g[reat]
1402 Plagues. At the same time *Tamerlane*, or *Tamyr*, King of the *Scythian*[s and]
1403 *Parthians*, with an innumerable Army invaded all *Asia*, calling [himself]
the wrath of God, and desolation of the Earth. Now also it was [that *Ziska*]
Captain of the *Hussites*, fought successfully against *Sigismund* [the Emperor.]
1433 Was beheld a great Comet, after which there was great scar[city of Corn]
for six years together.

1434 There was both a Comet, and an Eclipse of the sun, which was fol-
low'd by several Wars.

1439 A Comet preceded the invention of Printing, which was discover'd in
the year following.

1444 Another Comet flam'd before the *French* King set up on *Helvetia*: at this
time *Uladislaus* K. of *Hungary* was slain by *Amurath*; also a Sedition broke
out in *England*: And in the year 1454. the *Turk* took *Constantinople*.

1456 A Comet was seen, attended by a great Wind and Earthquake: the
Turk also did then possess himself of *Lemnus*, *Mitylene*, and *Eubea*.

1457 A Comet which they call'd *Nigrum*, did varioully affect the minds of men: the death of *Alphonsus* King of *Arragon* follow'd it, which embroil'd *Æmilia*, *Sabina*, *Campania*, and all the Kingdom of *Naples* in a long and grievous War: a Plague follow'd not long after; also the *Turk* made himself Master of *Peloponnesus*.

1460 A Comet preceded those great Victories of *Mahomet* the II. who in the year of our Lord 1451. reduced two Empires and twelve Kingdoms to his subjection.

1471 A Comet foretold the deaths of several Princes.

1472 Two Comets appear'd, which were succeeded by several Wars, and in the year following by an excessive unnatural Heat, and violent Plague: at this time *Charles* Duke of *Burgundy* made War upon his Neighbours, which War lasted many years, and was ended by his death. *Ussanus Cassanus* King of *Parthia* and *Armenia*, then fought with *Mahomet*, which War swept away abundance of men: also *Stephanus* the Palatinate of *Moldavia*, gave *Mahomet* a great defeat at the *Dambius*. The *Germans* call'd this Comet a *Peacocks Tail*, and most thought it portended the *Burgundian* War.

1475 A Comet was conspicuous before *Charles* of *Burgundy* seiz'd upon *Lorain*.

1477 A Comet blazed, which was the forerunner of so hot a Season, that it burnt up not only Corn, but Trees; also many great Rivers dried up, and a great Plague followed. At the same time *Charles* of *Burgundy* was slain by the *Helvetians*: and in this year many great Princes died.

1491 A Comet appear'd, and a very unwholsome time follow'd both for Men and Beasts: also the *Turks* possessed themselves of part of *Dalmatia* and *Sclavonia*.

1500 A Comet was seen before the *Tartars* devastation of *Poland*, *Muscovy*, and *Lithuania*: a little after the *Bavarian* War began. There was also at this time a raging Famine and Pestilence.

1506 A Comet portended the death of *Philip* King of *Spain*, as also the Wars of the Emperor *Maximilian*'s Sons with the *French* and *Venetians*; besides various Inundations, Winds, and scarcity of Corn.

1516 *Luther* (who in the year 1517. wrote against Indulgences) his Reformation succeeded a Comet.

1523 A Comet appear'd, and the Summer following was full of Storms, Earthquakes, and great falls of Water.

1527 A terrible Comet was seen with a long bloudy Tail, at which time the *Turk* wasted *Hungary*, and much hurt was done by the great swarms of Locusts.

1529 Four Comets appear'd this year, when soon after the *Turk* besieg'd *Vienna*, and became Master of many Cities in *Hungary*: also the Sweating-sickness destroy'd many thousands in *England*.

1530 Was another Comet; then were many Towns and Villages overwhelm'd with Water both in *Holland* and *Zealand*: also the *Tiber* overflow'd *Rome*.

1531 A Comet portended no less then a great slaughter of men both in the East and West: for the *Turk* broke into *Hungary* and *Austria*. King *Christianus* with a great Fleet sailed into *Denmark*, to recover his Kingdoms:

The

A.C. The *Helvetian* War began upon the score of Religion, wherein there were two eminent Battels, in the first of which *Zuinglius* was slain.

1532 A terrible Comet was seen, at which time the *Turks* making an irruption into *Hungary*, were repell'd by the Christians.

1533 A Comet call'd *Xiphias* (from its resemblance of a Sword) was conspicuous: after which followed Earthquakes in *Germany*, alterations in the Government of *England*, and a contest between *Charles* the V. and the *French*, about the Dukedom of *Millain*.

1538 A Comet was seen of a fiery colour, upon which follow'd an Epidemical Sickness in many places.

1539 Another Comet was visible, and in the year following ensued so hot a Summer, that it burnt up many Woods, and dried up many Rivers and Fountains.

1541 A great Plague, and the Conquest of *Buda* by the *Turks*, was signify'd by a Comet: also *Charles* the V. his unlucky Voyage into *Africa*, wherein many of his Ships and Men were lost by Storm.

1542 After a Comet followed great swarms of mischievous Locusts: likewise the unfortunate Expedition of the Christians against the *Turks*, wherein great part of their Forces perished by Sickness: also the Grape was this year so sowr, that no Wine could be drank.

1545 A Comet preceded the *Gallick* Persecution.

1556 Another Comet appear'd, in which year many learned and pious men deceased: in many parts of *Germany* the Reform'd Church at this time labour'd under great difficulties.

1558 A Comet lighted *Charles* the V. into his retirement, when he resign'd his Empire: also in the year 1566. began the War in the *Low-Countries*, upon the account of the *Spanish Inquisition*.

1572 A new Star was seen in *Cassiopeia*'s Sign, which was by most esteem'd a Comet, in
1577 which year the *Parisian* Nuptials were celebrated with Bloud, instead of Wine.
1585
1596 In every one of these years were Comets seen, although the three last were by some
1602 eminent men esteem'd only new Stars: they portended the various mutations in
1604 *Holland*, *Hungary*, *Bohemia*, and *Germany*.
1607

And besides all these, the *Blazing-Star* before the late *Civil Wars*, as well as those two dreadful *Comets* before the last *Plague*, and *Fire of London*, may (considering the present ill state of this unhappy Nation, and sinful People) give us just occasion to fear at least no better an Event, after this so much a worse *Comet*, than has ever yet appear'd; unless Providence grants that happy *Union of Protestants*, and *Exclusion of Papists*, which all good men, that are not so themselves, must ever wish and pray for.

Having thus given you an account of these *Comets*, their History, Nature, Causes, and Effects, according to the most commonly receiv'd Opinions; so let me now conclude this discourse with some small transitory Remarques upon this present *Comet*, which (by all the relations I have met with) is far the most large and terrible that ever yet was seen. After it had shewn it self in other parts, it began to appear to us here in *England*, on *Friday December* the 10th. about half an hour past four in the Afternoon, being of a pale dusky colour, with a prodigious Stream, at least 35. degrees in length: and the Astrologers say its signification cannot be good, because it is purely *Saturnine*. Now for the more difficult and uncertain part, although I shall leave that to those who dare undertake it; yet concerning the other more easie one, I could not forbear making some small observation, and collecting some conjecture (among the croud of others, for all are no better) from it.

At this *Comets* first appearing to the view of us near *Buckingham*, there was seen an unusual and prodigious stream of Light, arising out of, or from behind a Cloud at the Horizon, South-West, and darting upward into the *Galaxie* (or Milkie way) towards *Cassiopeia*, North-East; visible, in a clear Sky, as soon as the retreating light of the Sun would suffer it to be so; and moving Northward on the Horizon, till about 8. of the clock it disappear'd. It then seem'd broadest at the Horizon, growing sharper upwards by degrees, like a Pyramid or Sword revers'd. This first shape of it, though it caused some doubt in me, yet could not wholly forbid me to think it to proceed from one of those Comets called *Blazing-Stars*, concluding the Star it self to be sunk below our Horizon, either together with, or presently after the

the great Luminary. On the *Wedneſday* after this firſt appearance, was the firſt time I could perceive the Star at the bottom of the Light, about five degrees above our Horizon, which though not very viſible, was yet enough to ſhew that I were not miſtaken. But now the ſhape ſeem'd alter'd, the Stream ſharpeſt at the Comet, and broader upwards, (to the wonder of thoſe who apprehended not the reaſon of it) till at the end of the Tail it yet continued to appear ſomewhat narrower than in the middle.

After this, the circular motion of the Comet being ſlower than that of the Sun, it appear'd higher and higher every Night above the Horizon, declining ſtill more and more Northward in its ſetting; in ſo much that the laſt time I have yet ſeen it, (which was the 4th. of this inſtant *January*) when its firſt appearance after Sun-ſetting was (as I could gueſs without an Inſtrument) above fifty degrees above the Horizon, and its ſetting almoſt Northward.

In every obſervation I perceiv'd the Tail or Blaze of light to alter its pointing from the Star, turning every night from the North-Eaſt (as the hand of a Watch) more Eaſtward; and ſtill the higher the Star appear'd, the Tail turning a farther compaſs, till at this time, from pointing North-Eaſt (as it always did) at its firſt appearing in the Evening, before its ſetting the Blaze turns ſo much as to point almoſt South. This to ſome ſeem'd ſtrange, and to me enough to make me, conſidering the turning to be conſtant, and gueſſing (as well as I could without a Globe) at the place of the Sun under our Horizon, eaſily to fancy (and I thought truly) the Blaze to proceed in a direct Line from the Sun, by the Body of the Comet, and ſo to turn its pointing agreeably to the Suns motion, in a direct Line from it. Now this obſervation, whether exactly true or not, yet appear'd to me ſo very near the Truth, as to embolden me to have ſome thoughts, firſt to publiſh it (at leaſt in diſcourſe) for others examination, who might have better skill and means to do it; and then to improve it into this further conjecture at the Nature and Cauſe of ſuch *Comets*, (if it proves ſo true, as I preſume it is) at leaſt of this preſent *Comet*, (the firſt I ever took ſo much notice of) for the ſalving of theſe *Phænomena* aforeſaid: Namely, that whereſoever the place of it is, and whatſoever the Matter whereof it is compoſed, it ſeems to be ſuch as is like a Globe of Glaſs, or (it may be) of concrete Water, apt to reflect a gliſtering ſhine to all that behold it in a requiſite Poſition, if not every way: And withall, by its Tranſparency to tranſmit in a direct Line, and in a Blaze from it, thoſe Beams which it receives from ſuch a Luminary as the Sun is. So that the Body of the Comet, by a borrowed light from the Sun, ſomewhat reſembles other Stars: but the Tail, or Blaze, may be not a flame from any burning, (for why then ſhould it turn ſo conſtantly as the Sun directs it?) but only from the Comets being of a pellucid ſubſtance, (which other Stars are not) and ſo tranſmitting thoſe Beams, which ſhine upon the one ſide, in ſuch a Blaze, on the oppoſite ſide. This may alſo afford a Reaſon why the Star appearing higher towards our Zenith, the Blaze appears ſhorter to us, than it did when lower, and nearer to the Sun.

And further, moſt conjectures of its ſignificancy, as well as moſt of the Terrour from the thing it ſelf, (for I blame not thoſe who eſteem it as Gods Sign) proceeding from the apprehenſions of its dreadful burning, in ſo much as ſome ſeem to have been in care for the whole Machine of the Univerſe, from ſuch vaſt Conflagrations: I leave it to men to conſider rationally, how both theſe may be abated and allay'd by this opinion, if receiv'd as the moſt probable. In confirmation whereof, I ſeem'd to my ſelf to want nothing, but the obſervation of others, or my own, of more *Comets*, or of this if it ſhould continue to appear to us ſo long, as to have the Sun-beams fall on the reverſe of it, that ſo I might perceive whether the Blaze be always darted in ſuch a direct Line from the great Light of the World, whereſoever it be.

But this conjecture ſeeming at firſt new, and ſingular, to my ſelf, and likely to ſeem ſo to others alſo, I could not perſwade my ſelf to think of giving it vent, ſave only in ſome private talk; till by its importunity on my thoughts, it put me on ſearching into thoſe few Books I have, that write of ſuch things: And then I was at laſt ſurprized with ſome ſatisfaction to find, that the famous *Cardan* had the ſame fancy; and that neither did the as famous *Jul. Scaliger* (though ſo much diſpoſed to quarrel with him) diſſent from him in this ſubtilty; as whoever thinks it worth the while, may find in *Scaliger*'s 79. *Exercit. de ſubtil. ad Hieron. Cardan.* where *Cardan* alſo to my further ſatisfaction ſupply'd me with that, which I have ſaid before I wanted, for the encouragement of this conjecture: *Averſa ſemper à ſole cauda eſt.*

FINIS.